



October 3, 2016

Contact:
Johannesburg, South Africa: Danielle Kessler
Danielle_Kessler@fws.gov
+1 571-228-1803

“We recognize the interests of the Kingdom of Swaziland and the complex issues of southern white rhino management, but with such high stakes for rhinos, we voted no on this proposal. The proposed actions would have come with tremendous risk and uncertainty, and we found the unknowns unacceptable.

With continuously high levels of rhino poaching and illegal trade in rhino horn, any opening of trade would be a dangerous experiment that could promote additional poaching and would come with significant enforcement challenges, allowing legal trade to serve as a cover for illegal trade.

Experimenting with legal trade in rhino horn would be too risky, given the small population size of rhinos in Swaziland, the small and isolated populations in other countries, and the high level of rhino poaching throughout Africa. We believe commercialization of rhino horn would undermine conservation and enforcement efforts.”

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe, head of the U.S. delegation to the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, regarding CoP17 Prop. 7 to alter the existing annotation on the Appendix II listing of Swaziland’s white rhino, adopted at the 13th Conference of Parties in 2004, so as to permit a limited and regulated trade in white rhino horn that has been collected in the past from natural deaths or recovered from poached Swazi rhino, as well as horn to be harvested in a non-lethal way from a limited number of white rhino in the future in Swaziland, proposed by Swaziland.

Available from <https://usfws.tumblr.com/post/151292835954/we-recognize-the-interests-of-the-kingdom-of>